

**Council on Greenways & Trails  
Cape Henlopen State Park  
Biden Center  
August 27, 2008  
9:30am**

**Welcome & Introductions**

Paul Morrill, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

**February 20, 2008 Minutes**

Paul Morrill asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Debbie Heaton moved and Diane Wilson seconded to approve minutes as written, motion passed.

**Reports**

**Education & Outreach**

- Delaware State Fair: Diane Wilson reported the event was a success. She thanked all volunteers responsible. Diane said one of the activities she, Debbie Heaton and Lisa Lasher developed to encourage youth to get away from the television, was to get them to pledge to hike, bike, and explore the great outdoors this summer. Debbie designed a Pledge Card with a placeholder for a picture, and a log for activities. Once pledged, youth participants had their photos taken, put into their pledge cards to record their activities through summer. Brochures, maps, and giveaways were available, including water bottles and bike maps from DelDOT.
- Coast Day – October 5: Diane Wilson said this event was rapidly coming up and Council would participate this year. She asked for volunteers.

**Bike Council**

- Lisa Lasher said the Bike Council meets every two months. She reported that the Bike Council has a new Chairperson, Amy Wilburn.
- Jennifer Baldwin, DelDOT, said the Bike Council joined the Greater Wilmington Convention & Visitors Bureau. By being a member, the Bike Council can install a window display in the Bureau's Market Street Mall office. The display will go through the entire Bike month of May 2009. Jennifer welcomed ideas. [DE Bike Council News](#).
- Jennifer reported the Bike Council has had preliminary discussions to hold a bike summit or forum in the spring of 2009. They are planning to have a series of workshops leading up to the summit with possibly WILMAPCO's involvement. The main topic is that interested parties refocus on priorities for the Bike Council.

- New bike maps for each county are available and distributed by DelDOT. More information is on the Bike Council website: [Bike Maps](#). Thank you to Mike Krumrine, Division GIS Coordinator, for his technical assistance and review.
- Lisa Lasher said the Bike Council is looking for nominations to recognize bicycle commuters.

#### Trail Web Page

- Debbie Heaton reported that the Division is developing a new Parks & Recreation web page headed by Web Master, Andrew Fioravanti. When staff met with Andrew, he suggested trail descriptions be edited to add key words for a search-engine driven system. Andrew is still in the process of developing the State Park website and he will let Council know when it goes live. Susan Moerschel said she understands there will be a noticeable change in the DE State Parks website and that her office would provide the trail descriptions to the webmaster. Trail maps, now available on the web, will need reformatting for this new proposed site. Andrew is also developing the level of difficulty and accessibility information.

### **Updates**

#### Local Trails Projects

- Delaware Land & Water Conservation Trust Fund – on behalf of Bob Ehemann, Susan Moerschel gave a PowerPoint presentation to update Council on locally sponsored projects that have received grant assistance from the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund. The following towns were presented:
  - Kent County Isaacs Branch Phase 2
  - Seaford Sports Complex Pathway
  - Newark Reservoir Connector
  - Lewes Canalfront Park Pathway
  - Milford Mispillion Riverwalk

Lisa Lasher said she noticed in the slides that some projects like the Newark Reservoir Connector and Seaford Sports projects looked like sidewalks. She had understood that grants do not cover sidewalks. She was not sure where to draw the line on the definition of a sidewalk. Susan agreed with Lisa and said she had discussions with her team regarding this matter. She said that pathways are generally wider than typical sidewalks, which are 4-5 feet wide. It has been reported and observed that these locations, [Newark and Seaford], get a lot of use at any day. Seaford path is popular with seniors. Lisa said as long as the pathways serve the purpose, it did not matter what the surface was.

#### East Coast Greenway map/guide

- Susan reported that the East Coast Greenway Alliance, in partnership with the Division of Parks & Recreation, and other DE and PA agencies is developing a guide that will follow the format estimated in the published New Jersey map of the East Coast Greenway Trail. Susan circulated an example of the NJ guide that is geared primarily for cyclists, and not so much hikers and pedestrians. The Division of Parks & Recreation provided \$5,000 in funding printing. A draft map is developed and under review.
- Paul Morrill asked if East Coast Greenway had signage associated with it. Jennifer Baldwin said yes, it had, and that she and the Alliance developed a preliminary outline of signs needed to make the route both on and off road. DelDOT Traffic Section has reviewed and found that the selected route and route crossings are not completely safe. They will not sign because they think the route leads riders into unsafe conditions. The

section east and west of Hares Corner (at Route 13) intersection is especially problematic. It has the highest pedestrian fatalities in the state. Even though the East Coast Greenway is primarily for cyclists, they advertise it as a pedestrian and hiking route and safety issue is first. At an upcoming meeting, WILMAPCO, DelDOT, Division of Parks & Recreation and the East Coast Greenway Alliance staff will determine a final route alignment that the Traffic Section can agree to sign. Jennifer will inform Council of the outcome.

#### Bicycle Maps

- Jennifer Baldwin and Anthony Aglio reported that maps are now available for each county and they are distributing them throughout the State of Delaware. The maps have statewide, regional, and recreational routes. DelDOT recognizes these routes as long-term major bicycle routes, though some are not bike-able at this time. Maps convey existing conditions, thus helping cyclists plan their trip. Maps were available to Council.
- Jennifer said DelDOT is currently working on the Georgetown-Lewes Rail Trail Study.

#### Rails to Trails Conservancy 2010 Campaign

- Susan Moerschel reported the Rail to Trail Conservancy (RTC) initiated a 2010 campaign for active transportation to promote a funding earmark within the next reauthorization of Federal Highway Program for 40 communities (ISTEA, TEA-21, SAFETE-LU). RTC's goal of assistance to 40 communities would advance bicycle and pedestrian systems creating more-active-non-motorized transportation. RTC will select and recommend the 40 communities from Case Studies submitted. Copies of the Case Study for New Castle County were available in Council packets. Susan expected that WILMAPCO would participate in a national media event promoting the case studies. There is more information at their website: [2010 Campaign for Active Transportation](#). Gail VanGilder said to get attention is to highlight the need for alternative transportation, not just recreational.

#### **Presentations**

The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and Public Opinion Survey – Kendall Sommers: Susan Moerschel introduced Kendall Sommers, a Planner, as the newest member of the Park Resource Office.

- Susan briefed the Council on the 2008 telephone survey instrument used to collect information on individual and household participation in outdoor activities. Kendall will use the data collected to define outdoor recreation facility needs outlined in SCORP. Data will compare and contrast trends and patterns in outdoor activities from the survey findings taken in 2002. Kendall gave details in a presentation geared to linear activities.
- Kendall Sommers explained that the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is produced every five years. Responsive Management, Inc. was contracted by the Division of Parks & Recreation to conduct the public opinion telephone survey of Delaware residents, 16 years of age and older. The survey gathered information on outdoor recreation patterns, preferences, as well as landscape perceptions. Findings from the survey results will be the basis of the interim 2008-2011 SCORP. This year, the Division collaborated with Nemours Health and Prevention Services to oversample five municipalities within the state. Oversampling will show recreational preferences in a concise geographical area. The survey asked questions focused on pedestrian and bicycle pathways, but overall is inclusive of all outdoor activities. Kendall is currently analyzing the survey report and organizing data at a regional and municipal level. The results are preliminary at this state. When a complete set of raw data is available from Responsive

Management, Inc., she will continue with more analysis. Compared to the 2002 SCORP's public opinion survey, similar activities are popular, with walking and jogging being the most participated activity.

Paul Morrill thanked Kendall for the information and offered Council's help.

Dave Bartoo mentioned that this survey was taken only of Delaware residents, whereas, where he lives, north of Newark, there are a large number of out-of-state visitors from neighboring states.

**Announcements:**

- Susan Moerschel announced the National Park Service had begun developing their Comprehensive Management Plan for the Captain John Smith National Water Trail. NPS will hold September and October workshops in each of the states (VA, MD, and DE) that are around the Captain John Smith Trail. On October 1, 2008, NPS will hold an Open House Workshop in Seaford from 6:00a.m. To 8:00p.m. More workshops will be held again in spring 2009, to garner public input.

**Adjourn:**

Paul Morrill asked for a motion to adjourn. Diane Wilson made a motion and Lisa Lasher seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next Greenways & Trails Council meeting is October 29, 2008 at Grassdale Center, Fort Delaware State Park.

**Meeting Attendance:**

**Appointed Members**

Deborah Heaton  
Lisa Lasher  
Paul Morrill  
Gail VanGilder  
Diane Wilson

**Guests**

Mark Chura, Delaware Greenways, Inc.

**Agency Members**

Anthony Aglio, Planning, DelDOT  
Jennifer Baldwin, Planning, DelDOT

**Division of Parks and Recreation Staff**

Susan Moerschel  
Bob Ehemann  
David Bartoo  
Kendall Sommers  
Rose Ryödi

Respectfully submitted:  
Rose Ryödi